

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 FEA-01 L-03 EB-07

NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00 ERDA-05 /103 R

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APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:LSLOSS

IO/UNP:DMACUK;CIA/TFROSCHER

EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY;ERDA/JPHILLIPS

EA/ANP:TWADJA;S/S-MR BRIDGES

PM/DCA:HPHELPS

ACDA/NTB:RBUCHHEIM

NSC:RMOLANDER

C:LFUERTH

DOD:GHARLOW

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R 091614Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223101

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, UNGA, AS

SUBJECT:REPORTED AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVE ON COMPREHENSIVE
TEST BAN (CTB)

REF: ROME 13838

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1. REFTTEL REPORTED ITALIAN IMPRESSION THAT AUSTRALIA MAY BE CONSIDERING CTB INITIATIVE AT UNGA SESSION THIS FALL, AND ITALIAN REQUEST FOR USG VIEWS AND ASSESSMENT.

2. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OTHER INDICATION THAT AUSTRALIA INTENDS TO TAKE LEAD IN CTB INITIATIVE AT UPCOMING UNGA SESSION AS THEY DID AT 30TH SESSION. IN RECENT INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF DISARMAMENT AGENDA, WHICH INCLUDED CTB ISSUE, KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICER FROM AUSTRALIAN UN MISSION INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY PLANS ON PART OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO SPONSOR CTB RESOLUTION, AND DOUBTED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO APPEAR AS TRUCULENT AS THE FORMER ON THIS ISSUE. WHILE WE CANNOT RULE OUT AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN SPONSORING SOME LESS EXTREME CTB RESOLUTION AT THE UNGA THIS FALL, WE DOUBT THAT THEY WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN REPEATING LAST YEAR'S INITIATIVE.

3. OUR POSITION ON CTB IS WELL KNOWN: THE US CONTINUES TO SUPPORT AN ADEQUATELY VERIFIED COMPREHENSIVE BAN ON THE TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE US (AND ALBANIA, CHINA, FRANCE, AND THE UK) VOTED AGAINST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 1 OF RESOLUTION 3466(XXX), WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY AUSTRALIA LAST YEAR. THIS PARAGRAPH QUOTE CONDEMNS ALL NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS, IN WHATEVER ENVIRONMENT THEY MAY BE CONDUCTED END QUOTE. ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE, 24 STATES ABSTAINED INCLUDING THE US, FRANCE, ITALY, UK, AND USSR. THE MOST RECENT CTB RESOLUTION WHICH THE US VOTED FOR WAS RESOLUTION 2934(XXVII) WHICH WAS ADOPTED IN 1972. THIS RESOLUTION QUOTE CALLS UPON ALL NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES TO SUSPEND NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS IN ALL ENVIRONMENTS END QUOTE, AND ALSO URGES ADHERENCE TO THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY BY THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET DONE SO. IN AN EXPLANATION OF ITS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, THE US INDICATED ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GENERAL SUSPENSION OF TESTS CALLED FOR WOULD BE PURSUANT TO AN ADEQUATELY VERIFIED TREATY.

4. IN RESPONDING TO THE MFA'S QUERY, EMBASSY ROME MAY INDICATE THAT THE USG HAS NO INFORMATION ON A POSSIBLE CTB INITIATIVE BY AUSTRALIA AT THE 31ST UNGA, AND MAY DRAW ON PARA THREE (3) ABOVE AS APPROPRIATE. EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT US AND ITALIAN EXPERTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AT THE NATO DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING IN BRUSSELS EARLY IN OCTOBER, AND SUBSEQUENTLY AT THE UN PRIOR TO AND DURING DISARMAMENT DEBATE. KISSINGER

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